

# Daily Appeal.

## MORNING EDITION.

### JACKSON, MISS.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 6.

OLD TIME RETAIL.

A few hundred pounds of old time retail can be had by application at the Appeal office.

#### THE BATTLE OF SAVANNAH.

Something of the particulars of the affair near Port Gibson, that occurred on Friday last, have reached us after perfunctory inquiries made in every direction to ascertain the result, and we regret our report cannot, in truth, be so favorable as have been those of other operations in this department.

There is no doubt but that the Federal forces landed at Hattiesburg, near the mouth of Bayou Pierre, were much larger than had been reported; that they exceeded Gen. Bowen's command at least five to one, is not doubted. The few prisoners taken from the enemy—only some eight or ten—estimate the force engaged at 20,000, and claim that the reserve on the river bank was equally as great. To oppose these, Gen. Bowen had in the fight two brigades—

With such a disparity in numbers, of course a Confederate victory was next to an impossibility.

General Bowen's object in leaving his position at Grand Gulf, on the South side of the Big Black, and crossing Bayou Pierre, was, we presume, to hold the enemy in check, and prevent their advance into the country and upon Port Gibson, until reinforcements then known to be on the way could arrive. The movements of the Federal, however, were rapidly made, and in great force. The forces met about midnight Thursday night, some two or three miles from Port Gibson, and the fight raged almost unintermittently until toward evening on Friday, when General Bowen gave the order to fall back across Bayou Pierre, which movement was effected, and the bridges behind the retreating forces destroyed. Of course, this step involved the loss of Port Gibson, which was occupied by the Federal the same night. Such of our sick and wounded in the hospitals as were able to walk had timely warning, and crossed the bridges before they were fired. The remainder fell into the hands of the enemy, who, we are informed, found extensive hospital arrangements ready prepared.

On Saturday the enemy continued to advance, each number, that it was deemed best to re-cross the Big Black. Saturday night the works at Grand Gulf were abandoned, after demolishing and destroying the guns, and on Sunday the army crossed the Big Black at Hattiesburg's Ferry, where it was met by reinforcements strong enough to make further retreat unnecessary, and prevent a passage being effected by the enemy. This, we believe, is the present position of our forces on the Big Black, and as they further advance of the enemy against Vicksburg will be contested by greatly increased forces derived from no matter where, and aided by all the artificial defenses that science can add to a naturally strong position, a delay of active hostilities must ensue that will enable our generals to make such further arrangements as may be required.

We have made every effort to obtain some intelligence of the loss on both sides, but have been unable to do so. Yesterday morning nothing was known at Vicksburg than here. Both armies suffered severely. The general estimate of the army Sunday night was that our loss was one thousand killed, wounded and prisoners, that of the enemy about four thousand. Our killed and severely wounded were left upon the field. On Saturday the enemy refused to allow a party sent out under a flag of truce to bury the dead, to cross their lines for that purpose, saying that their own details were attending to that duty, and that the wounded were cared for. They secured some hundreds of prisoners, most of whom were sick or disabled.

The engagement was a long and bloody one, and gallantly did our boys for hours repel the herds concentrated against them. Whatever of advantage the enemy gained was dearly bought. It was only when our little band was worn out by fatigue, and their ammunition exhausted, that they fell back, which was done in comparatively good order, and the army saved to win hence elsewhere, which they are now prepared to do whenever the enemy are fit to advance toward the stronghold at Vicksburg.

On Sunday morning, a bridge having been thrown across Bayou Pierre, a Federal cavalry force crossed, and gave some little annoyance to the rear of our column moving across Big Black. Nothing serious, however, occurred, as the enemy generally kept at a respectful distance.

As we look upon it, the position at Grand Gulf was only of strategic importance to long as the Big Black was navigable. The defenses, such as they were, were only constructed after the enemy had succeeded in getting some of his fleet between Port Hudson and Vicksburg; and when it was apprehended they might possibly get transports through the canal. At that time the Big Black was navigable as high up as the railroad bridge, and to obstruct the passage of a force to the rear of Vicksburg by that route, the plan was conceived. The river has now fallen, and a division of our forces for holding Grand Gulf is no longer necessary. Its abandonment will enable our generals to concentrate their strength whenever necessary to repel the invaders. Whether the latter will advance against Vicksburg, or attempt to move inland to some point where they imagine communication can be cut off, remains to be seen. Military opinion differs as to what may be reasonably expected, but watchful eyes are upon them. Our opinion is, a severe battle will yet be fought in open field, upon which the fate of Vicksburg may, to some extent, depend. When it does occur we shall entertain no fears as to the result.

#### Casualties in the Hattiesburg Fight.

We are indebted to Surgeon Z. P. Weaver, for the following list of casualties in the Hattiesburg Battle:

GRAND GULF, Miss., May 2, 1863.

#### ENTOMBED APPRAISAL: How our Battery was engaged yesterday and the night before at B-the church, near Port Gibson. The following is a list of the wounded:

E. Stevens, left hand shot off; Jno. Cummins, leg broken; Jacob Black, arm, seriously; Jno. Coleman, groin; Serg. W. O. Hunter, left shoulder; right arm; W. M. Smith, foot; J. H. Smith, W. A. Cobb, leg; J. A. Grant, G. W. Jones, foot; A. C. Alexander, neck; Jesse Jackson, shoulder; F. M. Weathers, R. A. Smith, leg; Thos. L. Arnold, side; P. W. Hodge, head; W. J. Bailey, arm, all slightly wounded.

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